(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of pilgrims from all over the country come to worship Somnath in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the road leading to the Temple Town Somnath is in worse condition in the entire Saurashtra region and created problems for the people and pilgrims in particular;

(c) whether the Central as well as the State Government have been reminded in this connection;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Jetpur-Somnath Road has been declared as a National Highway. It was entrusted to Government of Gujarat only in Oct. 99 for maintenance and development works. Thereafter to improve the condition, 60 km length of this road has been identified for improvement of riding quality under special repair programme and the work is targetted to be completed in 2000-2001.

Damage caused to NH-5 due to Cyclone

1327. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to ascertain the extent of damage caused, requiring immediate restoration to the NH-5 between Cuttack and Balasore in Orissa, devastated due to super cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's action plan in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for not taking protective measures to strengthen both sides of the NH-5 in the above section where large scale soil erosion has reduced the roads due to flow of rain/flood water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir, The damage caused to NH-5 between Cuttack and Balasore due to super cyclone have been assessed and immediate restoration measures have been carried out. NH-5 was opened to traffic on 6-11-99.

(b) About 90 m of road embankment at km 149/2 of NH-5 near Soro between Cuttack and Balasore washed away due to flood water has been restored. Two lane traffic was allowed on 6.11.99 after immediate restoration. Construction of H.L. Bridge at this location is propossed to be taken up during four laning of this NH and provision has been made in the Plan 2000-2001. Further restoration measures such as re-sectioning and paved shoulder have been proposed in the stretches where the embankment got reduced due to erosion by flood water and provisions have been made in the Annual Plan 2000-2001.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Plying of Commercial Vessels on NW-II

1328: DR. SHRIMATI JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE 1RANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of infrastructure development plan in respect of National Water way No.-II; and

(b) the details of schemes which will be completed as per the plan for regular plying of commercial vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The infrasturcture development plan for National Waterway no. 2 for the 9th Five-Year Plan has been approved by the Government and details are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(b) Various Schemes under the plan are being implemented. Inland vessels are already plying between Calcutta and Pandu. Subject to availability of funds, the developmental plan as envisaged during 9th Five Year Plan would be processed.

Statement

Schemes/Activities for Development of National Waterway No. 2 during 9th Plan

(Rs. in Crores)

SI. No.	Scheme/Activity	9th Plan Approved Outlay
Ongoing Schemes		
1.	Floating Terminals	5.00
2.	24 Hrs Navigational aids	10.00